

Story and photos by Jerry Hennessy

The **Child Development Center (CDC) at NAS Whiting Field** was recently granted accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The accreditation citation reads, in part, "...having demonstrated substantial compliance with nationally recognized criteria for high quality early childhood programs."

A team of professionally trained inspectors, called validators, visited the Child Development Center to independently review the child development program and to grant or defer accreditation.

"Jane Garton was the CDC Director when the accreditation process began," said Mary Marcoux, Director of the MWR Department's program. "The inspectors look at everything from cleanliness of the facilities to the quality of educational programs we offer to our children," Marcoux continued. "They also look at staff qualifications and education and the amount of ongoing training they receive,"

The NAEYC is the nation's largest and most influential organization of early childhood educators and is dedicated to improving the quality of programs for children from birth through third grade.

This is the second time the Child Development Center has received this prestigious accreditation. The first time was in 1998. Accreditations are for three-year periods.

From left, Dayle Browning, Tammy Burch, Terry Sessions, Jennifer Macynski, Constance Wilson, Darlene Varnado, Betty Regna, Felicita Bernard and Joyce Gallagher.



NAS Whiting Field's Child Development Center staff is shown in both photos. Top photo, front row, from left, NAS Whiting Field CDC Director Mary Marcoux and Shawn Carter. Back row, Carolyn Brown, Cynthia Stormer, Carol Stauffer, Dianne Herron, Mary Abbey, Terrie Neuman and Vanessa Alleman. (Not pictured, Florida Ortiz and Nicole Martin).

